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**PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT, FEBRUARY 14, 2007**



**SIERRA NEVADA**  
CONSERVANCY

## **PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

*The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.*

**PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT, FEBRUARY 14, 2007**

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### Your Input:

The Conservancy is interested in receiving your input on the Program Guidelines. All comments will be recorded.

To submit additional comments:

**E-mail:** [geninfo@sierranevada.ca.gov](mailto:geninfo@sierranevada.ca.gov)

**Mail to:** **Fax to:** (530) 823-4665

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

***All comments must be received by Monday, April 16, 2007***

Updates to the guidelines can be viewed on the Conservancy's website at [www.sierranevada.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov)

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**I. PROGRAM STATEMENT**

**A. Introduction**

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 33300 et. seq., the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been created, in part, to provide strategic direction for the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada. SNC reflects a broad mission to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with different partners. Pursuant to this mandate and mission, the Conservancy adopts the following Program Guidelines.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Program is intended to integrate seven specific areas defined in Section F of these guidelines. The Program recognizes the interdependence of all areas and the need to ensure the success of each to achieve the overall mission of the Conservancy.

**B. Program Goals**

SNC subscribes to basic program goals. These include:

- Facilitating a wide variety of complementary projects and activities throughout the region to advance environmental improvement and the economic and social well-being of Sierra Nevada residents;
- Make every effort to ensure that, over time, Conservancy funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various subregions and among the program areas, with adequate allowance for the variability of costs associated with individual regions and types of projects;
- Maintaining a strong local presence and active public input and participation;
- Coordinating, cooperating and consulting with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, tribal organizations and other interested parties in integrated project design, implementation and management;
- Educating Californians of the benefits they receive from the Sierra Nevada and of the general importance of the region;
- Recognizing and addressing communities facing disproportionate environmental and economic burdens;
- Keeping accurate and open financial records.

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**C. Availability of Funds**

Funding for the Conservancy is appropriated through the State budget process on an annual basis. The Legislature appropriated over three million dollars for SNC for baseline operations in each of its first two years. Proposition 84 passed by California voters in 2006 provides over 50 million dollars for the SNC to accomplish its program goals, although these funds still need to be appropriated in the state budget. The Governor's 2007-08 budget proposes a total of \$21 million for the SNC, including \$17.5 million from the Proposition 84 funds.

The Conservancy will continue to seek funding in future fiscal years to allow continued implementation of the program. Project sponsors are encouraged to contact Conservancy staff for confirmation of funding amounts currently available under the program.

The authorizing statute for the Conservancy specifies seven program areas. Funds will be made available in an equitable and integrated fashion across program areas and sub-regions. The SNC is committed to maximizing funding in support of projects and activities that meet the goals of the enabling statute and the SNC Strategic Plan and to minimizing administrative costs.

**D. Administration**

The Conservancy is governed by a 16-member board, including 13 voting and 3 nonvoting liaison members. The board sets policies for the organization and adopts program and grant guidelines. It determines sub-regional and Regional priorities and program emphasis. The Board oversees decisions on grants and loans as well as SNC's support of other efforts that help achieve SNC purposes.

The SNC staff implements programs under the direction of the Board, consistent with SNC policies and procedures. The staff provides assistance to public agencies and non-profit and tribal organizations using a full array of tools. It monitors the ongoing status and success (benefits) of projects and provides reports to the SNC Board and the public.

**E. SNC Sub-Regions Defined**

As defined by statute, the SNC has six sub-regions. They consist of the following (bold indicates where all of the county is within the SNC boundaries):

- North Sierra consists of the Counties of **Lassen**, and portions of Modoc and Shasta;
- North Central Sierra is comprised of the Counties of **Plumas, Sierra** and portions of Butte and Tehama;

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- Central Sierra consists of the Counties of **El Dorado, Nevada** and portions of Placer, and Yuba;
- South Central Sierra is comprised of the Counties of **Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne**;
- East Sierra consists of the Counties of **Alpine, Mono** and portions of Inyo;
- South Sierra is comprised of portions of the Counties of Fresno, Kern, Madera, and Tulare.

Specific Regional boundaries are available on the SNC's Web site at [http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/html/map\\_of\\_the\\_region\\_sub\\_regions.html](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/html/map_of_the_region_sub_regions.html) staff may also be consulted relative to boundary questions.

**F. Program Areas Defined**

While the SNC has seven statutorily mandated program areas, a primary objective for the organization is the integration and harmonization between and among the program areas. The statute requires the SNC to, over time, equitably distribute funding and resources across program areas and sub-regions. The Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of understanding the interrelationship between the various program areas.

Given this focus, projects and activities that address numerous program areas in an integrated manner will be given priority. The SNC will work with a wide array of stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration and cooperation to achieve multiple benefits. It is recognized that projects that address a single program area may be beneficial and may be supported in certain instances.

The program areas are as follows:

- *Provide Increased Opportunities for Tourism and Recreation*

The program area for Tourism and Recreation may involve related opportunities and experiences for residents and visitors, both traditional and non-traditional (so-called "place-based or heritage tourism") forms. It may address existing activities (including shoulder and off-season) or developing new opportunities. Illustrative examples may include assistance in:

- Development and promotion of tourism related to agriculture;
- Development and promotion of tourism related to historical and cultural sites;
- Development and promotion of tribal tourism;
- Development and promotion of ecotourism;
- Development and promotion of tourism related to the arts;
- Identification, enhancement and promotion of scenic byways;

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- Identification of opportunities for, and promotion of, shoulder and off-season activities;
- Development and enhancement of visitor centers and interpretative opportunities;
- Efforts aimed at reducing the impact of recreational activities on the community and environment, including informational and educational efforts;
- Creation of web-based information on opportunities in tourism and recreation throughout the Region;
- Development and distribution of materials, signage and other promotional tools.

The program area also applies to support for related infrastructure. Possible examples are:

- Increased public access;
  - Assistance with trails;
  - Conversion of older infrastructure for recreational opportunities, and construction of ADA compliant facilities;
  - Development of new recreational facilities/opportunities;
  - Improvements to existing recreational facilities/opportunities.
- *Protect, Conserve and Restore the Region's Physical, Cultural, Archaeological, Historical and Living Resources*

This program area deals with protecting, conserving and restoring a broad array of resources. It is recognized that many other program areas also address these important resources. Some examples may include assistance in:

- Improving watershed health;
- Protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat;
- Improving forest health;
- Protecting and enhancing open space;
- Conducting environmental and natural resource education;
- Preservation of cultural resources;
- Preservation of historical buildings and settings;
- Preservation of western heritage
- Preservation of Native American archeological and cultural resources;
- Support of projects reducing the impacts of climate change.

The SNC has a variety of tools that can be used to achieve the desired outcomes in this area. The SNC may provide this assistance through grants or direct provision of services. Examples may include:

- Support for less than fee title acquisition of critical lands;
- Support for fee title acquisition of critical lands;

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- facilitation of land swap opportunities with state and federal agencies and private landowners;
- Provision of technical assistance and scientific research/data;
- environmental, cultural and archeological education;
- technical assistance for grant writing;
- creation of grant research libraries.

- *Aid in the Preservation of Working Landscapes*

The program area for working landscapes involves those lands producing goods and commodities from the natural environment (most commonly farms, ranches and forests). These lands are an important part of the local economy, culture and social fabric, and can benefit ecosystem services. Examples of projects may include:

- conservation easements or other mechanisms to help landowners maintain the economic viability of their working landscape-dependent businesses and provide environmental benefits;
- efforts to preserve communities and events built around working landscapes such as rodeos, fairs, and festivals;
- efforts to improve natural water storage and recharge capacities
- support for incentive-based programs to achieve natural resource protection, including development of sustainable best management practices;
- assistance in developing compatible activities such as “agri-tourism and eco-tourism”;
- support of efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change;
- assistance with monitoring activities, technical assistance and data;
- educational efforts relative to the contributions of working landscapes;
- support for efforts to utilize biomass for energy.

Projects in this program area must also balance interests of communities, resource development and other opportunities. Some examples may include:

- retaining community/historic character;
- preserving rural communities;
- research into and promotion of sustainable forestry or range management;
- creation of resource-oriented activities and jobs;
- creating opportunities for working landscape tourism;
- providing neutral forums for policy discussion.

- *Reduce the Risk of Natural Disasters, such as Wildfire*

This program area is related to natural disaster risk such as from wildfire, floods, landslides, avalanches and volcanic events. Climate change is an additional concern. Hence, projects in this program area deal with these kinds of risks. Some examples include:

- identification and planning to reduce risk of disasters;



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- providing data relative to natural disasters risk and tools to use such information;
- fuels reduction and related fire safe activities;
- reduction of wildland urban interface (WUI) conflicts and exposure to risk;
- assistance in other projects that reduce natural disaster risk;
- monitoring effectiveness of risk reduction efforts;
- educational efforts relating to risk reduction.

The program may also assist in land use planning efforts of local governments or organizations. Illustrative projects may include such things as:

- provision of information and technical assistance in General Plan analysis and amendments and other local planning efforts;
- assistance to local organizations dealing with issues of natural disaster risk;
- development of community plans for reduction of fire risk, flood risk and other natural disasters.

- *Protect and Improve Water and Air Quality*

The program area relates to water and air quality within SNC boundaries or interest.

In the case of water, concerns relate to historic and ongoing land use changes, the impact of catastrophic fire and climate change, and the effects of development on the demand for quality water and the ability to treat wastewater. SNC activities will be consistent with, but in no way supplant regulatory efforts or requirements. Some examples of potential projects in the water quality program area may include:

- water quality monitoring efforts;
- water conservation efforts and programs;
- integrated projects to enhance natural water storage capacity;
- projects to enhance resiliency of natural water storage resources;
- wetland and meadow restoration;
- erosion control projects;
- integrated watershed management planning efforts;
- watershed restoration and enhancement resulting in improved water quality;
- incentive-based programs to achieve improved water quality;
- communities with infrastructure needs for wastewater systems.

In the case of air, interests relate to addressing factors that reduce air quality and reconciling land management activities with air quality standards. It is recognized that there are factors outside the SNC Region that adversely contribute to the area's air quality. Illustrative projects may include:

- air quality monitoring;
- air shed assessment and management;
- support for incentive-based programs to achieve improved air quality;

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- development of alternative approaches to open air burning and traditional transportation;
  - dust management and abatement;
  - development of non-motorized transportation facilities;
  - efforts that reduce the adverse impacts of climate change to the region, including carbon sequestration as a part of climate change mitigation.
- *Assist the Regional Economy through the Operation of the Conservancy's Program*

The economy of the Sierra Nevada has its roots in the natural environment via tourism, recreation, resource extraction and the production of agricultural products. Increasingly, the regional economy includes more diverse economic activities that come from different goods and services. In general, actions and projects deal with maintaining and improving the economy of the region. Some examples may include:

- purchasing and contracting for goods and services from within the Region whenever possible and feasible;
- needs assessment, planning, and other aspects of sustainable economic development;
- investing in advanced information technology, communications and other infrastructure that facilitates economic activity;
- identifying economic impacts (positive and negative) of the SNC's actions.

The program area involves creation of activities and infrastructure that support the workforce and local communities. Illustrative examples may include:

- job fairs and job training;
  - sustainable business development;
  - promotion of Sierra-based goods and services by SNC.
- *Undertake Efforts to Enhance Public Use and Enjoyment of Lands Owned by the Public*

The program area deals with public lands and relates to the fact that over 60% of the Sierra Nevada is owned by the public and managed by public agencies. The program area supports projects to increase access to public lands and to enhance opportunities for restoration and improvements projects. Illustrative examples of projects might include:

- development of additional points of access to public lands;
- improvement and enhancement of existing access and recreational facilities;
- provide well-managed access to public lands through acquisition of voluntary easements on private lands.
- needs assessments and planning for restoration and improvement projects.

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Projects may also reflect the need to work cooperatively with land management agencies and others to address a variety of issues, including the need for management or reduction of user conflicts. Some examples of projects are:

- support for forums to discuss public land management issues and for public involvement;
- preparation and analysis of assessment, planning and environmental documents;
- support for community efforts to identify specific opportunities for sustainable public use and enjoyment of public lands.
- Support for efforts to promote enhanced management of public lands through management agreements and special use permits.

**G. Consistency with Strategic Plan**

The SNC is charged with a broad mission to be accomplished by a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with various partners. Consistent with statute, the SNC has adopted a Strategic Plan that is intended to guide its operations over the next five years. The Strategic Plan underscores the integrated interrelationship between the various program areas. The SNC emphasizes that activities that address multiple program areas in an integrated manner will be given priority. To this end, unless indicated otherwise by the SNC Board, programs and projects should reflect the goals and actions identified in the SNC Strategic Plan.

**H. Flexible Approach to Assessment of Opportunities**

SNC seeks to foster opportunities that are creative and flexible, take advantage of other available funds, promote multiple benefits or a single benefit of substantial public interest, and produce results that are clear and measurable. It is desirable that, to the extent feasible, programs and projects achieve benefits at the lowest necessary cost and in the shortest necessary amount of time. SNC may consider projects that border on SNC boundaries if they also involve lands or significantly affect lands within the SNC Region and would have substantial Sub-regional or Regional benefit.

Concurrent with the development of program guidelines, the SNC is developing a set of performance measures and indices of environmental, economic and social well being. Performance measures will be used to determine the extent to which the SNC is implementing its program as described in the Strategic Plan and these guidelines. The indices will be used to evaluate the effect that the SNC's efforts are having on the overall well-being of the Region.

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**I. Available Tools, Methods and Resources**

SNC has a wide variety of available tools, methods and resources to accomplish its program goals. These tools include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Issuance of grants
  - Competitive Grants: These are grants funded by a single source with specific requirements (i.e. Proposition 84) to complete project implementation. Specific guidelines will be developed defining the types of activities that are eligible for project funding.
  - Strategic Opportunity Grants: These are grants funded through a number of possible sources to help recipients respond to time sensitive opportunities for initial project planning and development, environmental review, appraisal services, or project implementation. They will also be used to build capacity and develop grant administration skills for small organizations throughout the Region.
- Provision of loans. Specific guidelines for the provision of loans will be developed when funding sources for loan making become available.
- Funding or facilitating collaborative planning efforts, which involve interested entities and groups within the region.
- Be a neutral convener for parties wishing to make progress in discussing controversial issues.
- Provision of technical assistance to eligible entities to support program and project development and implementation.
- Conducting research in connection with the development and implementation of the SNC program.
- Conduct monitoring in connection with the development and implementation of the SNC program.
- Provision of consulting and educational services or other resources where available.

**J. Acquisitions**

The conservancy may acquire, or assist eligible partners to acquire, from willing sellers or transferors, an interest in any real property. However, the conservancy shall not acquire any real property in fee simple and shall not exercise the power of eminent domain.

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The conservancy may make grants or loans to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations to acquire an interest in real property, including a fee interest in that property. Grant or loan funds shall be disbursed to a recipient entity only after the entity has entered into an agreement with the conservancy, on the terms and conditions specified by the conservancy. After approving a grant, the conservancy may assist the grantee in carrying out the purposes of the grant.

The conservancy shall cooperate with and consult with the city or county where a grant is proposed or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired; and shall, as necessary or appropriate, coordinate its efforts with other state agencies, non-profit organizations, or other interested parties. The conservancy shall, as necessary and appropriate, cooperate and consult with a public water system that owns or operates facilities, including lands appurtenant thereto, where a grant is proposed or an interest in land is proposed to be acquired.

An entity applying for a grant from the conservancy to acquire an interest in real property shall specify all of the following in the grant application:

- (1) The intended use of the property.
- (2) The manner in which the land will be managed.
- (3) How the cost of ongoing management will be funded.

In the case of a grant of funds to a nonprofit organization or tribal organization to acquire an interest in real property, including, but not limited to, a fee interest, the agreement between the conservancy and the recipient nonprofit organization shall require all of the following:

- (a) The purchase price of an interest in real property acquired by the nonprofit organization shall not exceed fair market value as established by an appraisal approved by the conservancy.
- (b) The terms under which the interest in real property is acquired shall be subject to the conservancy's approval.
- (c) An interest in real property to be acquired under the grant shall not be used as security for a debt unless the conservancy approves the transaction.
- (d) The transfer of an interest in the real property shall be subject to approval of the conservancy, and a new agreement sufficient to protect the public interest shall be entered into between the conservancy and the transferee.

**K. Receipt of Gifts**

The conservancy may receive gifts, donations, grants, rents, royalties, and other assistance and funds from public and private sources.

Except as specified in statute, the Conservancy may also receive an interest in real or personal property through transfer, succession, or other mode of acquisition generally recognized by law.

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Subject to stipulations or other legal considerations, SNC will use gifts in a manner consistent with accomplishing the goals of the Strategic Plan.

**L. Reversion**

A deed or instrument by which the nonprofit organization acquires an interest in real property under the grant shall include a power of termination on the part of the state. The deed or instrument shall provide that the state may exercise the power of termination by notice in the event of the nonprofit organization's violation of the purpose of the grant through breach of a material term or condition thereof, and that, upon recordation of the notice, full title to the interest in real property identified in the notice shall immediately vest in the state, or in another public agency or a nonprofit organization designated by the conservancy to which the state conveys or has conveyed its interest.

**II. PROJECT INITIATION**

It is desirable for potential requesters of project support to contact the Conservancy staff to discuss their proposed projects and to submit preliminary project proposals for review. This preliminary submittal process is intended to assist in the identification and design of qualifying proposals.

Conservancy staff are available to assist applicants in developing proposals which will meet program objectives, guidelines, and criteria. Staff may be contacted by phone or in person at the following locations:

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

Headquarters: for projects serving the entire Sierra Nevada Region  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603 530-823-4670

Mt. Lassen Area Office: for projects serving the North, North Central , and Central Subregions.  
2950 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, CA 96130 (Phone #)

Mt. Whitney Area Office: for projects serving the South Central and South Subregions.  
5039 Fairgrounds Road  
Mariposa, California 95338 (Phone #)

Mt. Whitney Area Eastern Office: for projects serving the East Subregion.  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 300  
Bishop, CA 93514 (Phone #)

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**A. Eligible Applicants**

The Conservancy may make grants or loans to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations as defined in the Agency's enabling legislation:

"Local public agency" - means a city, county, district, or joint powers authority.

"Nonprofit organization" - means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and that has among its principal charitable purposes preservation of land for scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, or open-space opportunities; or, protection of the natural environment, preservation or enhancement of wildlife; or, preservation of cultural and historical resources; or, efforts to provide for the enjoyment of public lands.

"Tribal organization" - means an Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 52829 to 52835, inclusive, of Number 250 of Volume 53 (December 29, 1988) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time.

**B. Application Process**

Competitive Grants for project implementation are awarded by the Conservancy on an annual basis. Specific guidelines will be developed for each grant program that will identify the process, timeline and eligibility.

Strategic Opportunity Grants for planning activities, project development, or project implementation may be given by the Conservancy at any time throughout the year. Applications for Strategic Opportunity Grants may be accepted at any time during the year and will be evaluated by staff and presented to the Board on an individual basis.

Specific Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions for Competitive and Strategic Opportunity Grants will be available to review and download from the Conservancy's Web site at [www.sierranevada.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov).

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**III. PROJECT EVALUATION**

**A. Project Submission**

Upon receipt of preliminary submittals, staff will initially assess their consistency with the general eligibility criteria and objectives of the program. In cases where the staff finds that a project proposal is either incomplete or does not meet eligibility criteria, staff will work with the project applicant to complete or modify it for further consideration. Staff will next begin to consult with the project applicants, SNC sub-regional representatives, state and local agencies, interested non-profits, and other organizations with expertise or interest in the program area in order to gain input and help refine the proposals. This may include the identification of other funding sources for consideration by project applicants.

When staff determines that potential project submittals are complete and are consistent with agency and program priorities, they will be presented to the Conservancy board for final review and approval. Projects approved under the Executive Officer's delegated authority will be presented to the Board at the first regularly scheduled meeting following approval.

**B. SNC Sub-Regional Priorities**

The statute governing the SNC charges the organization with identifying sub-regional priorities. The SNC relies heavily on public input and the input of other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations to determine priorities. Consistent with the requirement of "equitable distribution" and as part of its ongoing process, the Board will determine the appropriate manner to address priorities.

**C. SNC Regional Priorities**

As part of its ongoing process, the SNC will also identify Regional priorities, considering sub-regional priorities and other Region-wide information. The Board will determine the appropriate manner to address priorities.

**D. Project Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria for projects are based on program requirements; institutional capabilities, integration of program goals, funding needs throughout the region; and federal state and local plans, including general plans, recreation plans, urban water management plans and groundwater management plans.

Projects or portions of projects undertaken should be consistent with all applicable laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (where appropriate), and SNC guidelines.



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The following criteria will be utilized to evaluate and prioritize projects either directly undertaken or funded through grants, loans, or other actions by the Conservancy (not listed in order of importance).

- Significant contribution to meeting multiple program goals in the SNC Strategic Plan - The project directly addresses multiple program action items in the SNC Strategic Plan. In most cases, preference will be given to projects that directly meet sub-regional needs and priorities.
- Significant contribution to meeting a single program goal- in some instances it may not be possible to achieve multiple objectives, however, there is substantial benefit and the project represents a significant contribution to meeting SNC's goal in that program area
- Federal, state, and local plans, including general plans, recreation plans, urban water management plans and groundwater management plans - will be considered in evaluating proposed projects
- The SNC evaluates projects considering what is occurring on surrounding lands, cognizant of potential impacts to those landscapes.
- Cooperation and community support - The project has been formulated and developed in conjunction with other agencies and organizations that have an interest in the outcome of the project. The applicant demonstrates support of the project by other public agencies, landowners, non-profit organizations, tribal organizations, or other parties necessary for the successful implementation and long-term viability of the project. Community support and consensus are also key factors.
- Leveraging of Funds – The project includes other funding partners to allow for maximim benefit accruing from expenditure of SNC funds.
- Adequacy of design – If the project calls for construction of infrastructure, facilities and related items, the project should have an appropriate design. The project design should be appropriate to the type and level of use anticipated, and include measures, if necessary, to protect natural resources. Preference will be given to projects which provide facilities for a wide range of users, including the disabled.
- Cost-effectiveness - The project provides significant public benefit at the lowest necessary cost. Preference will be given to projects which can be made more cost-effective through the use of resources of other agencies or organizations and/or inclusion of matching funds or in-lieu contributions by the applicants.
- Implementability - The project can be implemented in a timely manner. If a project is large and complex and depends on other funding sources, the portion

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of the project to be funded by the Conservancy must be able to be implemented by itself in a manner consistent with the objectives of the SNC program area.

- Sustainability - If applicable, the project involves an activity that can be repeated over a long period of time without causing damage to the environment and community.
- Management and maintenance – The recipient of a grant or loan provided by the conservancy for the acquisition of real property shall provide for the management of the real property to be acquired as specified in the grant agreement. Management or maintenance plans for projects, programs, or other forms of conservancy assistance will be developed with recipients and included in formal agreements.
- Model - The project is useful as a model project in the program area or in other sub-regions. Projects incorporating effective and innovative approaches will be given preference.

**IV. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

- Monitoring – SNC staff may visit project sites, consistent with agreements, (for projects based on the ground) during implementation to monitor progress and offer assistance if necessary.
- Documentation – SNC staff and project partners will document project implementation as specified in grant contract documents. Project photographs will be taken during implementation and archived with project files and may be used for additional SNC purposes.
- Performance Standards – Performance standards will be identified in project plan documents and specifications and will be consistent with goals identified in the SNC strategic plan. Standards will be developed based on best available knowledge and updated as necessary. Analysis of standards will help identify indices to measure effectiveness of SNC program implementation.